

2 March 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Auditor-in-Chief

SUBJECT: Interpretation of [REDACTED]

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1. Reference is made to request contained in your memorandum of 25 February 1955, for an interpretation of the application of [REDACTED] where indirect travel is involved.

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2. In the case of [REDACTED] it appears that he is being ordered to perform official duties on the proposed route of his return. In view of this fact, travel from [REDACTED] to Headquarters with stops at [REDACTED] would be considered as direct route travel providing the direct normally traveled route is taken between the points where official duty is to be performed.

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3. Unofficial stops en route for personal reasons would, of course, be chargeable to annual leave. Deviations from normally traveled direct routes between points of duty would require cost comparison with cost by direct route and excess cost, if any, by reason of deviation from direct routes for personal convenience would have to be borne by the traveler.

4. With respect to the general application of this regulation as it involves indirect travel, the following indicates current application of regulations and applicable GAO decision.

- (a) In any case wherein a traveler elects, for personal convenience, to travel by an indirect route, reimbursement for travel costs incurred will be effected on the basis of first class fare by the normally traveled direct route, or actual cost incurred, whichever is less.
- (b) Costs comparison will be based on the mode of travel authorized, or if alternate modes are authorized, on the basis of the mode utilized for the major portion of the trip.
- (c) Excess travel time which occurs by reason of the indirect routing, and/or mode(s) of travel selected for the convenience of the employee will be charged as annual leave. Also, periods in a non-duty status, i.e., delays en route for personal convenience, will be charged as annual leave notwithstanding the fact that total elapsed time by the route and mode of travel used may not exceed total travel time by the mode of travel authorized. Consideration will be given, however, in determining allowable costs for the travel to per diem which would have been payable had travel occurred by the direct normally traveled route.

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- (d) With respect to determination of costs of indirect travel, transportation costs by foreign ship when ships of American registry are available on the normally traveled direct route, are not allowable and will be eliminated from the costs incurred by the traveler for purposes of comparison with cost by the normally traveled direct route.

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